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Cap 2

FEDERAL-STATE COOPERATIVE
SNOW SURVEY AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS

FOR

MONTANA and NORTHERN WYOMING

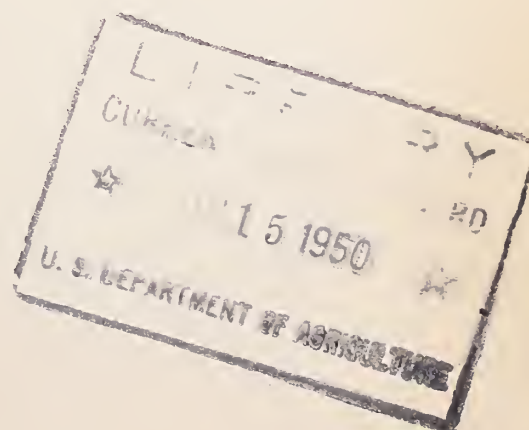
Upper Missouri and Upper Columbia River
Basins

JUNE 1, 1950

Division of Irrigation
Soil Conservation Service

and

Montana Agricultural Experimental Station
Bozeman, Montana



OUTLOOK FOR
IRRIGATION WATER SUPPLY
June 1, 1950

* Snow survey measurements made on or about the first of June at key *
* stations on the Columbia River Basin indicate that most of the low *
* elevation snow has disappeared and some melting has occurred at *
* high elevation courses. However, melting has been retarded by fre- *
* quent cold weather periods. The lack of appreciable rainfall has *
* lessened the high peak flow which expressed itself on April and *
* May first. *
* *
* The snow melt season this year has progressed very similar to last *
* season and, with a continued alternation of warm and cold spells, *
* it is anticipated that the abnormally large snow pack will leave *
* the mountains without disastrous effects on high stream flow peaks. *

During the past 15 days there has been an average loss of about 10 inches of water from the snow pack over the entire Basin, more or less depending upon the particular aspect and elevation of the sampling snow course. Comparing the June first snow water equivalents with April first averages presents an interesting situation when we realize that two months after April first, there still exists above average water supply.

At Baree Mountain, for example, the April first average is 38 inches and on the first of June there was 58 inches of water in the snow. Similar comparisons can be made over the Basin without the extreme of a plus 20 inches. At the North Fork Jocko course, the April first average is 40 inches and June first measurements show 44 inches.

Reservoir storage has generally improved and satisfactory supplies for irrigation would appear to be assured.

MONTANA SNOW SURVEYS JUNE 1, 1950

Current Data										Comparative Data				
	No.	Elev.	Date of Survey	Snow Depth (In.)	Water Content June 1 1950	Per Cent Density	Change Since May 15 1950	Water Content						
								May 15 1950	May 1 1950	April 1 1950	March 1 1950	Feb. 1 1950	June 1 1950	
MISSOURI BASIN														
DRAINAGE BASIN														
AND														
SNOW COURSE **														
KOOTENAI														
Baree Mountain	15B1	6000	5/31	112.3	58.1	52	-7.9	66.1	63.9	61.3	---	---	---	27.4
Blue Bird Basin	14A1	6800	6/2	85.6	42.3	50	-6.8	49.1	53.7	46.3	---	---	---	15.0
Brush Creek	14A4	5000	5/31	7.8	2.1	27	-10.8	12.9	17.1	18.9	14.0	---	---	---
Red Mountain	15A1	6000	6/1	33.8	15.4	45	-11.3	26.7	31.1	30.4	20.2	---	---	---
Gray Creek	Canada	5100	5/30	38.8	16.9	43	-3.5	20.4	24.5	24.0	16.1	12.5	---	---
Marble Canyon	Canada	5000	5/31	16.1	6.4	46	-7.4	13.8	16.6	15.7	14.9	12.9	---	---
FLATHEAD RIVER														
Big Creek	13B3	6750	5/30	105.0	53.4	50	-6.6*	---	60.0	53.8	38.7	30.0	---	No snow
Brush Creek	14A4	6800	5/31	7.8	2.1	27	-10.8	12.9	17.1	18.9	14.0	---	---	---
Desert Mountain	13A2	5600	6/1	11.8	5.2	44	-13.5	18.7	21.7	23.3	16.8	13.7	---	---
Limestone Pass	13B8	7600	6/1	107.8	47.3	44	-3.2	50.5	---	54.7	48.8	---	---	---
Logan Creek	14A5	4300	5/25	NO SNOW		--	-1.0	1.0	7.1	10.3	9.1	---	---	---
North Fork Jocko	13B7	6320	5/31	93.0	44.6	48	-15.0*	---	59.6	56.2	45.0	30.9	---	---
Spotted Bear Mt.	13B2	7000	5/23	NO SNOW		--	-10.6	10.6	18.1	19.2	17.5	---	---	---
Strawberry Lake	13B10	6500	5/31	84.2	43.6	52	-16.4	60.0	58.8	59.1	40.5	---	---	---
Trinkus Lake	13B1	6500	6/1	81.9	39.0	48	-13.1	52.1	53.1	57.3	43.3	---	---	---
Trout Lake	13B11	3600	6/1	NO SNOW				No	20.2	27.0	23.7	---	---	---
UPPER CLARKS FORK														
49 Meadows	15B10	5000	6/1	51.6	26.8	52	-12.6	Snow	47.5	57.0	37.2	---	---	---
Lookout	15B2	5250	5/31	45.2	22.7	50	-15.3	39.4	45.1	47.5	36.4	---	---	---
BITTERROOT														
Gibbons Pass	13D2	7100	5/26	48.4	23.9	50	-5.2	29.1	28.3	30.0	---	17.0	---	---
Skalkaho Summit	13C3	7258	6/1	51.8	23.0	44	-12.4	35.4	33.5	24.0	---	---	---	---
Packers Meadow	14C2	5700	6/2	1.5	0.6	57	-20.5	21.1	24.3	31.1	---	24.0	---	---
Nez Perce Camp	14D2	5850	6/2	NO SNOW				3.9	13.1	16.0	11.8	8.6	---	---
Nez Perce Pass	14D1	6575	6/2	3.0	1.2	40	-11.6	12.8	18.6	20.0	14.6	9.6	---	---

* May 1 Data Comparison

